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Mistrial in Brattle Street rape case

DA's office hasn't decided whether to retry Kachoul

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Majok D. Kachoul, one of the Sudanese "Lost Boys" who escaped civil war and settled in Arlington, was found not guilty on one count of rape Wednesday, July 2 in Cambridge Superior Court, but the jury couldn't come to an agreement on the other two rape charges.

Because it is deemed a mistrial, a status hearing is scheduled on Tuesday, July 15

where the court will decide whether to proceed with another trial on the charges that resulted in a hung jury.

"It's our decision whether we will go to trial again," said Emily LaGrassa of the Middlesex District Attorney's office. "That decision has not been made at this time."

Arlington Police charged Kachoul, then 19, with raping a 20-year-old woman who was allegedly walking outside the young man's Brattle Street home on Aug. 24, 2001.

During the alleged incident, a neighbor heard the commotion, reportedly yelled at Kachoul and pushed him away from the victim, according to police. The witness then drove the victim to the Community Safety Building where she reported the incident to police.

Police Chief Fred Ryan is disappointed with the verdict. "We respect the jury's verdict," said Ryan. "However, we felt we had very strong evidence to support a conviction."

Looking back at the investigation, Ryan said his department did everything correctly.

"I'm confident that we had a thorough and complete investigation and all the evidence that could have been collected was and presented to the jury," he added.

The trial began on Monday, June 23 with Kachoul represented by a public defender. Over the next five days, Kachoul, the alleged victim and only witness took the

'It's our decision whether we will go to trial again. That decision has not been made at this time.'

EMILY LAGRASSA OF THE
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

stand.

The jury deliberated for four days and returned with a not guilty verdict on one count of rape, indecent assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. The jury could not come to an agreement on the other charges, including two

counts of rape, one count of indecent assault and battery and one count of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon.

Ryan said the three counts of rape all deal with the same Brattle Street incident.

■ SEE TRIAL, PAGE 15

Spy Pond docu-drama tells of murder

Local film on PBS Monday

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The name Dr. George Parkman doesn't have the same name recognition in today's world as Nicole Brown Simpson, Sharon Tate or the Lindbergh baby, but in the 1840s, Parkman's disappearance and murder mirrored the fascination that gripped the world after the killings of Simpson, Tate and Lindbergh.

On Monday, July 14, Arlington-based Spy Pond Productions' "Murder At Harvard" will tell the tale of Parkman's murder as part of "The American Experience" at 9 p.m. on WGBH-Channel 2.

"The film is as much about the nature of how can we ever really know what happened in the past," said Eric Stange, co-producer of "Murder At Harvard."

Parkman, a Boston Brahmin and member of one of Boston's richest families, was allegedly beaten to death and dismembered in November 1849. A week after the



Tim Sawyer rehearses his lines before the filming of "Murder At Harvard" in 2001 at the Whittemore-Robbins House. The film by Spy Pond Productions will be shown at Monday, July 14 at 9 a.m. on WGBH-Channel 2.

FILE PHOTO

■ SEE MURDER, PAGE 15

Project may lose pooches, garden

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Gardeners and puppies need not apply. Maybe.

The \$7.4 million Reed's Brook project, now known as McClennen Fields, named after recently-retired Director of Planning and Community Development Alan McClennen, is about to enter the second phase of construction.

According to new Planning and Community Development Director Kevin O'Brien, who spearheaded the project as assistant director, the state Department of Environmental Protection ordered some changes to the plan, including scrapping the community garden and possibly the dog run.

O'Brien said the DEP was concerned the garden could possibly infiltrate through the cap and expose some of the garbage beneath (the parcel

■ SEE REED'S BROOK, PAGE 15

Expected state aid on the way

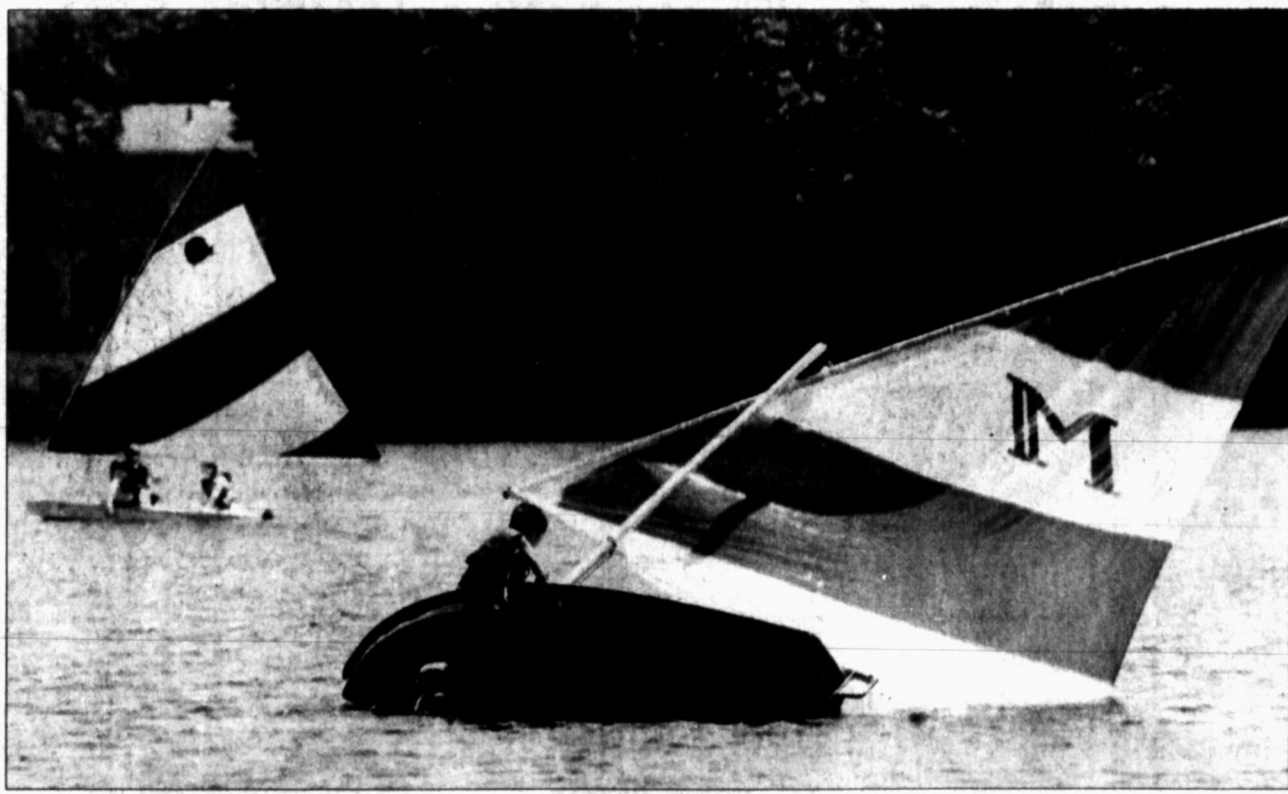
BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

State legislators shot back at the governor this week, vetoing a plan to slash \$23 million in state aid to local communities. The House and Senate both overrode Gov. Mitt Romney's \$23 million local aid veto from last week, handing the governor a budget process defeat.

The money would have been removed from the Additional Assistance line item of the budget. That money is awarded to older urban communities with little room for tax base growth. Arlington would have lost more than \$273,000 if the veto was successful.

■ SEE STATE AID, PAGE 15

SPY POND SPLASH



Henry Zhou, 8, on the boat, and Corey Hatch, 9, in the water participate in the Arlington Boys and Girls Club's sailing program on Spy Pond. Sailing smoothly on the other boat are Pat Bolsvert, 11, and Phil McLaughlin, 12.

STAFF PHOTO BY ANN RINGWOOD

Number two man takes the reins

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Meet the new director of planning and community development, same as the interim director of planning and community development.

Alan McClennen, the 30-year veteran director of the Planning and Community Development Department, retired on July 1 and Kevin O'Brien, the department's long-time assistant director, has taken the top position in the Planning Department. O'Brien, 60, has been second-in-command in Arlington for 18 years.

"I feel ready to come in and seamlessly continue the work that's been done here," said O'Brien.

His time in Arlington wasn't O'Brien's only

Kevin O'Brien

■ SEE O'BRIEN, PAGE 15

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Monday, June 30

• At 7:56 a.m., a Mt. Vernon Street resident called police after someone smashed a car window.

• At 8:29 a.m., a caller reported she left a pocketbook at a Massachusetts Avenue business. When she returned, the item was missing. Police watched the business' video surveillance and found two people took the pocketbook. Police are investigating.

• At 1:35 p.m., a Paul Revere Road resident notified police about a keyed motor vehicle.

• At 9:28 p.m., a Richfield Road resident reported someone threw eggs at a home.

Tuesday, July 1

• At 9:04 a.m., a Sawin Street resident reported an acquaintance wouldn't give back a video camera.

• At 12:22 p.m., police received a call from Mill Street regarding threatening phone calls. The person said he had been receiving abusive phone calls for two years. Police asked the man to notify the telephone company.

• At 2:19 p.m., a Mystic Street resident called police discovering a wallet stolen from her motor vehicle. The woman's credit card was later used at a Lexington business. Police are investigating.

• At 4:28 p.m., a Coolidge Road resident called police after someone broke a car window.

Wednesday, July 2

• At 11:23 a.m., police responded to a call regarding two broken windows on Acton Street. Police believe the damage was caused by BB pellets.

• At 12:49 p.m., the Police Department received a call regarding a suspect stealing

Arrests

Wednesday, July 2

• At 11:38 p.m., police arrested Kevin B. Wright, 35, 97 Sunnyside Ave., and charged him with domestic assault and battery. Officer David Brown made the arrest.

Thursday, July 3

• At 8:31 p.m., police arrested Robert Lee Ratliff, 32, 12 Mt. Vernon St., and charged him on a default warrant. Officer Donald Brown made the arrest at Ratliff's home.

Friday, July 4

• At 12:33 p.m., police

arrested William F. Osgood, 18, homeless, and charged him with committing a felony in the daytime and larceny in a building. Officer Donald Brown responded to Robbins Library concerning a burglary alarm. Police found Osgood, who was allegedly wearing a full-length trench coat, in the parking lot. Officers searched Osgood's backpack and found a metal cash box, which he allegedly took from the library's office. Brown made the arrest.

Road reported someone scribbled an "x" in a motor vehicle's rear window and trunk.

Friday, July 4

• At 2:45 a.m., police received a call regarding two people with flashlights in the area of Day and Rhinecliff streets. An officer spoke to the duo who were looking for car keys.

Saturday, July 5

• At 4:20 a.m., a man reported someone entered his unlocked ice cream truck on Eastern Avenue. Nothing was missing.

• At 3:15 p.m., police asked a reportedly suspicious man to leave a Broadway business' restroom.

Sunday, July 6

• At 9:43 a.m., police responded to a call on Massachusetts Avenue after a man reported an acquaintance threatened him and threw a rock at him, striking his calf. The suspect denied hitting the other man.

• At 6:39 p.m., an Appleton Street resident reported someone stole 19 solar-powered lights from his front lawn.

Artist's work part of exhibit

The watercolor paintings of Arlington resident and artist Emily Malin is included in an exhibition entitled "Tropical Flavors" at the Berenberg Gallery, 4 Clarendon St., Boston, until July 31.

The gallery specializes in what is called outsider art, the work of artists who have not been formally trained.

Malin has been a resident of Arlington since 1975 and attended Arlington Public Schools, the Cotting School, and the Massachusetts Hospital School. She is a member of the Cambridge Art Association and her work has been exhibited there and at the Fuller Art Museum, the offices of Very Special Arts in downtown Boston, and at the Quebrada Coffee House and Carberry's



Emily Malin's work is included in "Tropical Flavors" at the Berenberg Gallery in Boston.

Bakery and Coffeehouse in Arlington among other venues.

Malin has participated in Arlington Open Studios for the last two years.

Her work centers around the depiction of ordinary everyday objects, with an emphasis on flowers and fruits and other still life subjects.

Summer arts program accepting applications

Registrations are now being accepted for the Arlington Center for the Arts' 2003 Summer Vacation Arts Programs for children ages 5-12.

In any given week, students explore painting media, clay, drawing tools, printmaking, and mixed media. Themes focus on educational and fun topics emphasizing art-making as well as history, culture, science, and crafts.

The goal the Summer Arts Program is to inspire creative thinking, encourage exploration and problem solving skills. All programs are full-day (8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.); extended care is available from 8-8:45 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The next four programs are:

• Planes, Trains, and Automobiles
July 14-18: Be inspired by modes of transportation.

• The Rainforest
July 21-25: Explore the art, animals, environment, and stories of the Rainforest.

• Musically Inspired
July 28-Aug. 1: Make posters, CD covers, instruments, and much more.

• Wonders of the Sea
Aug. 4-8: Art, marine and sea animals environmental awareness.

Correction

The Arlington Advocate mistakenly reported Town Meeting approved a new trash disposal contract with Wheelabrator on June 18 ("New past cuts disposal fees," June 26). Town Meeting did not approve nor deny the article that night, but supported a substitute motion, submitted by member Jacqueline Harrington, which asked acting Town Manager Nancy Galkowski to get certain questions answered about the pro-

posed contract. Once Galkowski received those answers, Town Meeting asked the town manager to go before the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to receive the boards' support. Galkowski received the answers and appeared before both committees at the end of June and received their blessings to go forward with the five-year contract. Galkowski then officially signed the contract that will start in 2005.

Meetings

Thursday, July 10

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

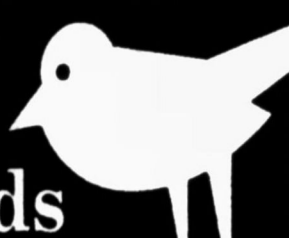
Tuesday, July 15

• Permanent Town Building Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

Wednesday, July 16

• Arlington Human Rights Commission meets at 8 p.m. in the Jefferson Cutter House.

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Coalition begins budgeting work

New field trip release removes hurdles

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The June 15th Coalition, now known as the Arlington Coalition, has hit the ground running.

A Web site for the group will be online soon, according to group co-founder Nora Mann. The coalition has divided into nine working groups that will research topics ranging from public works to safety to infrastructure. All the groups will report their findings in another large-scale meeting this fall.

"Sometime after Labor Day, we will have another large group meeting where each committee will present what they learned to the coalition as a whole," said Mann. "We hope to begin to set some priorities and to work with department heads and other town officials in looking into how to make budgeting choices."

According to Mann, the group will then work with department heads and elected officials to find possible solutions to long-standing budgeting problems. The group will also examine how other communities handle different issues to find new and better approaches in governance and budgeting.

"There has already been a lot of discussion between members of the coalition and department heads," said

Mann. "Nobody is trying to catch anyone doing something the wrong way. We want to help."

During the group's June 19 inaugural meeting, Chamber of Commerce member David Walkinshaw explained someone's override vote was not important. While several people in the crowd spoke of reaching out to "no" voters, Walkinshaw said the group should focus on solutions and not on selling ideas.

"I voted 'no.' A lot of people voted 'no' that are here. That doesn't matter any more," said

Walkinshaw.

The groups advocated bottom-up budgeting, where each department could be broken down into core responsibilities and line items would be added to help fulfill those goals.

"The beauty of this is that there are no sacred cows," said Walkinshaw.

"Really we should be focusing on the reliability, quality and affordability of the services we want to provide," said Finance Committee member Charles Foksett during the initial meeting.

Working groups will examine education, infrastructure, health insurance and pensions, the O'Neill formula, management and information technology, public safety, public works, regional and state support and community services.

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

Parents may be willing to let their kids go on field trips again, thanks to the School Committee's pending new trip release.

Parents had objected to the original release form offered by the schools last year as being too legalistic and containing a controversial indemnification clause that left parents holding the bag and the town walking away from any lawsuits.

Lawyer Charles Kazarian and Professor Josephine Babiarczyk both took on the task of taking the original form and translating it into plain English.

"Josephine really took the lead on this. She re-drafted what they already had," said Kazarian. "The one major change was the indemnification clause and I took the lead on that one."

School Committee member Jeff Thielman heads the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee. He said the document turned in has satisfied the town and school coun-

It's a fair policy and a policy both the town counsels and parents can live with.'

JEFF THIELMAN, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

sels. "I think this is realistic. It's a fair policy and a policy both the town counsels and parents can live with," said Thielman.

Making the form something parents could understand and agree to was a top priority for the School Committee, according to Thielman.

"I am very grateful to Josephine and Chuck helping us out with this policy," said Thielman.

One major change is the elimination of the indemnification clause, which protected the town from a child's negligence on a field trip or during an extracurricular activity. According to Kazarian, the clause would have forced the town to sue parents when their child was negligent during a field trip.

"It's an awkward position and the town never wants to be in that position," said Kazarian.

One other change makes it clear that the bus company is not protected by state law the way the school and school employees are. Therefore, parents can sue the bus company if there's ever an accident during a field trip.

"Your prime exposure to problems in a field trip is in the coming and the going, the bus ride," said Kazarian.

Thielman said the form is being reviewed by the full School Committee and will come to a vote during the board's next meeting in late July or in September.

"It will definitely take effect before the September field trips," said Thielman.

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REVISED PRIORITIES
In the aftermath of the life-altering events of September 11th, American consumers are increasing their interest in saving and debt repayment while purchasing fewer luxury goods and lottery tickets. This finding of a recent national survey commissioned by the Consumer Federation of America and Bank of America shows that the events of September 11th have caused Americans to reassess their priorities and undertake steps to shore up their balance sheets. Consumers seem less willing to take financial risks and are taking a more conservative approach toward spending. It seems that the events of September 11th have had a sobering effect on personal financial behavior.

The terrorist attack of 2001 changed the way many people think about saving and decreasing debt rather than buying. You seek the guidance of a doctor to maintain good health. If you want to sell a home, you contact a real estate professional. Today, more than ever, it's important to seek professional financial guidance. **CAMBRIDGE APPLETON TRUST** can provide the customized trust and investment solutions you need to achieve financial success. To arrange a consultation, contact us at 617-441-4250. We can arrange to meet at a location convenient to you.

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Thursday is all right for dancing

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Elton John may sing that Saturday night is all right for fighting, but Thursday night will soon become the time to dance and enjoy music and the arts in Arlington.

The Chamber of Commerce's Arlington at Night Summer Concert Series kicks off Thursday, July 17 with the blues, jump and swing group, Jump City Band. The concerts will continue on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. until Aug. 14 on the Jefferson Cutter House's front lawn in Arlington Center.

Organizers have included new wrinkles to this year's series. Food will be a theme as Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine will provide food at each of the five concerts. In addition, Brigham's will sell ice cream the first night, Paris Gourmet will be there at the second and fifth nights, and Flora the third and fourth performances.

"People can buy a picnic and the restaurant will keep the proceeds," said Michele Meagher, executive director of the Arlington

Chamber of Commerce. "This really ties in to looking at the whole concept of Arlington at night. We're getting the word out that Arlington is an entertainment destination."

Another addition to this year's schedule are special nights highlighting residents and officials. For instance, the first night is Elect-ed Official Appreciation Night.

"It is an opportunity to say 'thank you,'" said Meagher.

The only band returning from last year is Jump City Band. The others range from The Pearl, a pop-folk/roots-rock band on July 24 to Troupe Baden'ya, a drum and dance group from West Africa on Aug. 14. The troupe will perform for free in Arlington only days before their appearance at the Newport Folk Festival.

Peter Gold, the mastermind behind the Boston Music Awards, and his FireflyatNight group, are producing the concerts and have booked the acts. Gold is kicking off his own series called Firefly at the Regent in the fall, which will explore the wide kaleidoscope of the arts, such as dance, music, and the spo-

ken word.

Working with Gary Adelson and Leland Stein of the Regent Theatre, Gold also spoke to Meagher about producing the series.

"We offered to help out because we thought it would be a great way to introduce ourselves to the community," said Gold.

Choosing the bands, Gold said he wanted ones that meant summer, fun, and being outdoors.

"We wanted something that would lend itself to that situation. At the same time, we wanted to do something different each week," said Gold.

The series is a FireflyatNight production and presented by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce along with Citizens Bank and The Arlington Advocate/Community Newspaper Company with generous support from Bombay Classic Indian Cuisine, BOWES Pennell & Thompson GMAC Real Estate and The Regent Theatre.

For more info, call the Arlington Chamber of Commerce at 781-643-4600 or go online to www.arlingtonchamberofcommerce.org.

Arlington at Night Summer Concert Series schedule

The free concerts will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on the Jefferson Cutter House lawn, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street.

July 17

Jump City Band

Blues, jump, and swing

July 24

The Pearl (formerly Paved Country)

Pop/folk/roots-rock band

July 31

di bostoner klezmer

Not just for klez-heads, this joyous music will appeal to everyone

Aug. 7

Chris and Meredith Thompson

Acoustic duo, featuring flute, guitar, percussion and beautiful harmonies

Aug. 14

Troupe Baden'ya

Drum and dance from Mali, West Africa

Frigid dunk brings cash

On Saturday, July 19, Terry McKeon of Arlington will dive into the frigid waters of Nantasket Beach in Hull, to raise funds for the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

The fifth annual One-Mile Swim, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Nantasket Beach House, is open to 200 swimmers, with a minimum age requirement of 12. There will be a competitive one-mile swim and a recreational/fitness half-mile swim.

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Unfunded mandates, Prop. 2 1/2 targeted

State representative files legislation

BY ROBERTO SCALESE
STAFF WRITER

The state should pay for what it asks for, according to Arlington state Rep. Jim Marzilli. If not, it should at least allow towns greater flexibility to fund the programs.

Marzilli has filed two pieces of legislation that would change Proposition 2 1/2. The first would allow communities to fund state mandates by raising the tax levy outside the restrictions of the proposition. The second would protect qualified seniors from paying the increased tax rates via a successful override or debt exclusion.

According to Marzilli, he isn't crazy about the age requirement in the tax break bill, but added it appealed co-filers and to get the conversation about tax relief started.

"We need a mechanism to help protect people with low and moderate incomes from rising property taxes," said Marzilli. "I am concerned about having the age provision built-in. I don't think age is a sufficient reason to provide someone with benefits."

The representative said the bill has little chance of passing in a year where every penny is needed for the state to survive. Still, filing it was important, he said.

"It's more of an effort to get the conversation started now

about how to protect people when Proposition 2 1/2 overrides are successful. The circuit-breaker law was the first step in that process," said Marzilli. The circuit-breaker law gives qualified seniors a break in property tax increases. Marzilli originally submitted that bill without age restriction, but the age provision was later added.

The mandate funding bill, House 1215, allows towns to escape a dilemma created when the state demands more money be spent on education, but declines to offer more cash or give towns the ability to raise their own money.

"The state imposes mandates for services and spending, but it doesn't provide either the funding or the flexibility cities and towns need to meet the mandates," said Marzilli.

Marzilli proposed the bill on behalf of Paul Schlichtman, School Committee vice chairman and president-elect of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Schlichtman said the bill solves problems on the municipal level. If mandates go up, the ability to add revenue goes up. If mandate costs go down, that ability to tax goes down.

"The ideal thing would be the state should fund these mandates for the schools and not pass it off to the cities and towns," said Schlichtman.

Museum fund-raiser at Regent Theatre

The Boston Rock & Roll Museum and The Regent Theatre present: Live at the Rat with Boston punk rock legends of the 1970s on Saturday, July 19 at 8 p.m.

Featuring Willie Loco Alexander & the Boom Boom Band, Unnatural Axe, The

Real Kids, DMZ, and The Rat All-Stars and hosted by a special guest celebrity, the event will also feature exclusive film and video footage and an exhibit area with rare photos, posters, and other memorabilia from the mid-to late-70s Boston music scene.

This is the second in a continuing series at the Regent covering the history of Boston music live on stage and benefiting the Boston Rock & Roll Museum.

Reserved seats are \$17 in advance, \$20 day of show.

The Regent Theatre is located at 7 Medford St. For tickets, call 781-646-4849. For more information, go online to www.regenttheatre.com.

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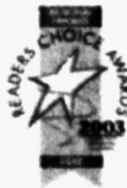


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THE STORK REPORT

Colin Neil Ross

Alyssa (Falwell) and Joe Ross of Litchfield, N.H., announce the birth of a son, Colin Neil Ross, on Feb. 4, 2003.

Grandparents are Tom and Pat Falwell of Arlington and Neil and Marcia Ross of Hanson. Great grandmother is Evelyn Falwell of Arlington.

Colin weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He joins brother, Aidan Thomas, 1 1/2.

Alexandra Ann Selvitelli

A daughter, Alexandra Ann Selvitelli, was born April 24, 2003, at Worcester Medical Center to Mark and Heather (Flynn) Selvitelli of Worcester.

Grandparents are Kevin and Barbara Flynn of Arlington and Paul and Janet Selvitelli of Reading.

Alexandra joins her sister Samantha, 1.

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Mona Lisa smiles at high school

Arlington High School art students Chloe Holiday, Elizabeth McCann, Julia Manoli, and their assistants Sylvia Sheppard and Sarah Rudd, spent the last month creating a stunning mural depicting "Mona Lisa" laughing herself off the picture plane.

The 12 sequential images are painted in the style of 12 different major artists: Leonardo Da Vinci, Vincent Van Gogh, Jean-Michel Basquiat, George Seurat, Joseph Albers, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Roy Lichtenstein, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, and The Simpson's. Viewers receive an instantaneous flash of art history when walking by the mural located in the hallway outside Room 204.

This mural is part of the AHS Find Arts Department's ongoing mission to make students' artwork more visible in the community. Student artwork is also on display town-wide in exhibitions funded by the Arlington Arts Council, at the recent AHS Senior Art Exhibition, as well as at the Arnheim Gallery at Massachusetts College of Art.

Republicans meeting

Arlington Republican Town Committee will conduct the monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, at the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

The meeting is important as it concerns reviews and changes in the bylaws. Party leaders said local Republicans' presence and vote are essential.

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Seed of love blossoms at Jefferson Cutter

Group started in historic home

BY KATE ANTOGNINI
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

Five years ago Chris Gonsalves was single.

Tired of commuting from his Winchester home to dating clubs in Boston, Gonsalves placed an ad in several community newspapers for a singles get together at the Jefferson Cutter House in Arlington. He was expecting a cozy gathering; 40 people showed up.

Gonsalves now oversees the largest singles network in the Boston suburbs called FunFunFun.org. Since the club's birth, membership has grown to 500 singles spread over 80 towns, with Arlington, Lexington, Winchester and Medford raking in the most members.

Gonsalves attributes his club's popularity to the challenges of dating in suburbia.

"According to the recent 2000 census, the suburbs are now majority single," Gonsalves said. "The challenge is how do you meet up with other singles. For people who are no longer interested in going into Boston to bars, our organization provides a way they can get together and meet in an environment that's relaxing."

"American society is so localized," said Bedford resident Robert Tucci, who moved from his native Portugal to attend MIT as an undergraduate. "I've had bad experiences in college with the bar scene. I've also tried swing dancing. It was a good way to meet people, but I couldn't quite get the right age group."

The club network is divided into three generations: 20s-30s, 30s-40s, and 40s-50s. Each group participates in a mix of travel, social, cultural and sporting events.

"It was the age grouping that first interested me," Waltham native Karen Walz said. Walz is part of the 40-50s group. "I found that I was aging out of my old club. I don't know what other clubs really make a point of grouping people together by generation. That to me is a really big point."

Arlington resident Doreen Rosselli joined four years ago after trying her luck in Boston bars.

"When you're my age, you're more likely to find someone who drinks too much," she said. "I was seeing someone for a couple of years and he decided to go back to his ex-wife and kids."

While most members join in the hopes of finding a



COURTESY PHOTO FROM NAWHITewater.COM

FunFunFun.org singles enjoy a nwhitewater.com rafting trip.

romantic partner, Gonsalves said the club's other attractions often draw them in.

"People start to learn what Boston offers," he said. Recent highlights include a wine tasting at an Acton Jazz Café, a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, and a North Conway ski excursion.

"Last year for the first time in my life, I went white water rafting," Walz said. "I was very proud of myself because that was a really brave thing to do."

Walz and others agreed the friends they've made through

the club are just as strong as the romantic connections.

"Not everybody is going for a meat market," Walz said. "It really attracts people who are interested in doing things that they're interested in with other people, doing things together and having a fun time."

"The people are an interesting spectrum," she added. "It's by no means snobby or elite — yet it attracts people who are interesting and well-educated."

"I've met a lot of women friends," said Kathy Haskell of Arlington. Haskell is involved

in a monthly book group for club members.

"It's been a great way to meet people in general," she said.

The romantic component of the club is also undeniable.

"We've had twelve marriages," Gonsalves said.

Arlington resident Linda Werschler met her husband, Paul, through the club.

"I heard about it at Arlington Town Day and the name was intriguing because I was in my thirties and I was single — I wanted to get married," she said. "I think the first event that I saw him at was a movie and dinner night. It was a good, successful experience."

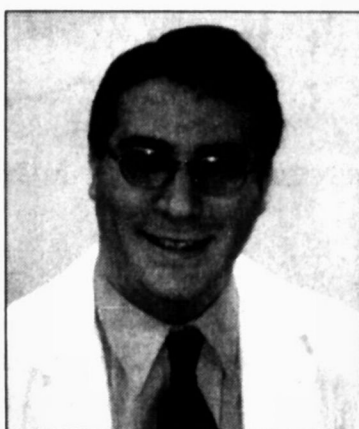
So many singles have hooked up through the club that a couples-only offshoot is in the works.

"I didn't want club membership to start and the next thing you know someone wants to meet a member who is already involved. That happened to me once," Gonsalves said. "The club is a singles club and it's important that it be a singles club."

For more information on the singles club visit www.funfunfun.org, or e-mail chris@funfunfun.org. Membership fees are \$68 for the first year and \$48 for renewals.

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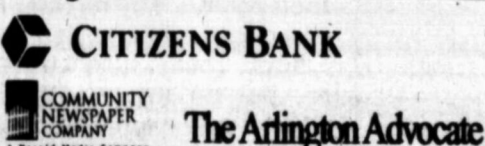


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EDITORIAL

Rising stars shine bright

They may have finished fifth and sixth in a field of six, but two Arlingtonians have brushed aside that defeat and are making a difference in Arlington.

In April's School Committee race, Fred Bernardin finished fifth and Charles Kazarian came in sixth, which would have deflated some people and made them question whether to give back to a community that didn't support their candidacies. These two men did just the reverse — diving headlong into public service.

If the town handed out "Rookie of the Year" awards to new Town Meeting members, Bernardin would have taken home the prize this year. Bernardin, a political novice who began to find his voice at the end of the School Committee campaign, spoke in a straight-forward, intelligent manner at Town Meeting, pushing for such things as improvements at the Dallin School.

New members are not usually ones to present amendments, but Bernardin was there trying to improve warrant articles.

Meanwhile, Kazarian, who finished last in the six-way race, has helped the town out through his legal background. After the School Committee and administration was chastised for its field trip policy, which some parents believed was confusing and left the town with no liability, Kazarian stepped forward and drafted a policy with Professor Josephine Babiarz that was short on legalese and long on plain English. The duo also tweaked items that they believe will make things more palatable for parents.

Kazarian's document will hopefully calm parents fears and allow the schools to move past this controversy that has stewed for months.

Bernardin and Kazarian may not have received the voters' nod in April, but their service shows there is life after an election loss. Hard-working volunteers like Bernardin and Kazarian will continue to strive to make Arlington a better place to live.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smaller classes help learning

Gloria Leitner raised thought-provoking issues in her guest column on July 3 ("Rethinking Arlington's economy").

To continue the discussion, I will address her assertion that as good an education can be given to a class of 35 today as was given to a class of 35 when she was in elementary and high school. I am assuming that Ms. Leitner attended school before the mid-1960s, the time when I was also in public school.

First, the body of knowledge school children are required to master today is much greater than that they studied 40 years ago. Not only do they have more American history to learn, but they now must know the history of many other countries.

When I was in school, only business majors learned to type and no one used a computer. Whole disciplines have opened up. I recently heard that a local high school requires all seniors to study physics, a topic that only the few science majors in my high school studied.

The elite 20 took "Survey of Social Sciences." Calculus, too, is a relatively new and complicated subject.

When I left high school, it was common for people to be able to find secure and decently-paying jobs in the industrial and manufacturing sector. These jobs are becoming scarcer and scarcer, requiring more people to have higher education.

Forty years ago, school children had more leisure time and more exercise. Most had an hour for lunch and many walked home to eat that lunch. This meant that they had both exercise and food in a relatively calm atmosphere.

Today, in Arlington, elementary school children sit in crowded rooms to cram lunch and rush for a brief recess, all in 30 minutes. Middle school children barely have time to move through lines, grab their food, and eat in 22 minutes.

Finally, when I was in school, children who were violent and disruptive and prevented other children from learning were hit, by their parents if by no one else, and eventually expelled from school. Today such children are put on drugs and IEPs, which make expulsion illegal. While I find both approaches deplorable, there

is no question that the first was, in the short term, cheaper and more effective. Aside from the pedagogical question (and research does show that small classes contribute to a better education), I doubt that much learning goes on in a class of 35 today, with under-exercised, restless children unable properly to digest their lunches, trying to cram six or eight subjects into their heads, while one or two classmates who misbehave are never adequately dealt with.

Jane Arnold
Acton Street

Comments on Fox, education

I had mixed feelings as I read "Rethinking Arlington's Economy" (Advocate, July 3).

Like Ms. Leitner I believe Arlington needs to build up its business base, so that the town does not rely so heavily on property taxes. What better place to start than the Symmes property, which Arlington's citizens have sunk a great deal of money into acquiring?

It would be nice to see some affordable housing units there, as well — and surely that would be satisfying to "no" voters who felt that Arlington is pricing all but the wealthiest out — but businesses should be very actively sought for that spot and for the Massachusetts Avenue sites she mentioned.

Her comment about the Fox Library seemed a bit odd. She rarely goes in, but when she does (generally just to vote), it's practically empty. Maybe there are more people there at other times. Why not ask the librarians, who might be in a position to know numbers during non-voting hours?

Ms. Leitner goes on to criticize parents for lobbying for "creative courses" like Spanish or playing an instrument over old-fashioned basics like reading. What she clearly doesn't understand is that the schools didn't choose between Spanish and reading teachers.

The reading teachers and the librarians were cut across the board in the elementary schools. That's right, no support for reading, the most basic building block of academics, and no librarian to guide book choices and teach research skills.

Along with no reading specialists and no librarians, elementary school children next year will have no art. One ses-

sion a week for physical education. No Spanish. No A.C.E. (an academic excellence program that challenged elementary and middle school students of various abilities).

No counseling staff. No fifth grade science camp, which has improved basic science skills of many children before they went on to middle school. Class sizes will rise despite reams of research showing that children do far better academically in smaller classes and that many children fall between the cracks in larger classes. Surely Ms. Leitner, who says she survived classes of 35 in New York, enjoyed one or two of these advantages.

All these cuts are just at the elementary school level, of course. Quite a bit more came out of middle school and high school budgets. And naturally all the schools are being held to standards set by MCAS and similar tests, but the legislators patting themselves on the back for raising the bar apparently forgot to support academics financially.

Lest this all sound too depressing, there are options for helping out. Join a team of concerned residents working to find financial solutions to any number of Arlington's budget problems, including the schools, through the June 15 Coalition.

Call or e-mail your political representatives to ask why public education has slipped so far in state and national priorities that towns must pass overrides or suffer the drastic cuts seen in Arlington. And please consider sending any sum you can afford to the non-profit Arlington Partners in Education Foundation, which is raising money to fund five priorities identified by the School Committee, including reading teachers.

Their emergency grant fund-raising campaign ends soon on July 31.

Francesca Coltrera
Scituate Street

Responds to ideas in guest column

For someone who claims to offer "heretical" ideas, Gloria Leitner seems to be repeating the same old budget dogma I've been hearing for months: cut the money for arts in the schools and the Fox Library.

After all, the logic goes, we didn't have that kind of high-faluting stuff when we were in school, so our kids don't need it either — and the Fox is just



"a place to socialize" for mothers of young children, which could bring in more money doing something else.

Why do we need to hurt women and children first? Pardon me for feeling a bit suspicious, but I haven't heard a great outcry to cut sports programs — like the high school's baseball or football team, or the town's many playing fields and skating rink, which are undoubtedly valuable real estate.

Whenever Leitner goes to the Fox Library, it's "practically empty": when I go to the Veterans Memorial Rink during the day, I never see anyone using the fields.

Teaching children skills they can use their whole lives to express themselves in poetry, music, or art is unnecessary now — but for some reason it's important to round up kids for team sports that require expensive specialized equipment, large open areas of undeveloped land, and muscles and ligaments that most of us will lose before we're 40. For that matter, I haven't heard many snide comments about the Senior Center being just "a place to socialize."

As a Unitarian-Universalist, I have a fondness for heretics. However, most heretics offer new ideas, instead of recycled anti-intellectualism. I am very much looking forward to hearing the ideas from the June 15th Coalition, and a serious rethinking of the town's mission and needs, instead of Leitner's prejudices.

Meg Muckenhoupt
Thesda Street

Responds to editorial

Years ago when my husband and I moved to Arlington, we displayed signs on our corner lot.

This was for our favorite political person, in town or for Boston. A few years later we were told that it was voted too many signs on lawns made the homes look unattractive.

Therefore, I was surprised to see signs on lawns, for and against Proposition 2 1/2.

This should not be as it is

■ SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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Partners in Education seeks funds for schools

Try to set aside if you can the issues that created the fiscal crisis afflicting cities and towns throughout the state. Think instead of what is happening right now in Arlington because of this same crisis.

The simple fact is that when the children of Arlington go to school in September, they will receive a lesser education than they did this past spring. Are we willing to let that happen?

Let's look at the facts. Pink slips have been handed out to many teachers and staff. Reading specialists, K-12 classroom teachers, social workers, and others have been fired.

Valuable programs are disappearing such as reading support, library, elementary school art classes, Spanish, and ACE. Who loses? Teachers, property owners, but most assuredly and devastatingly, the children of this town.

Many of us do not want to see a decline in the quality of public education offered in Arlington. Many of us want to find a way to support the schools.

Together, we can make a real difference if we act — and if we act now.

You can contribute to an urgent fund-raising drive that is being coordinated by Arlington Partners in Education Foundation (APEF). This public charity was established in 2001 with the sole mission of raising funds to support excellence in education in Arlington's public schools.

Our hope for this special fund-raising drive is to raise enough money to maintain at least some of the most essential services our schools provide.

Clearly, this drive won't provide all the funding the schools need, nor is it a long-term solution. But we do hope to raise \$665,000 to meet the most urgent priorities for the coming school year as identified by the Arlington Public Schools administration and School Committee:

- **Reading teachers (\$250,000)** — Students who struggle in the classroom require reading support. Without the ability to read, a huge connection to the world is lost. Kids cannot keep up with their peers, cannot learn new material, and eventually cannot effectively express themselves.

Guest Columnists

ARLINGTON PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Reading is and will always remain the "key to the kingdom."

- **K-12 classroom teachers to address staff student ratios and program breadth (\$145,000)** — It's simple. Too many kids, too few teachers, and the learning process breaks down. Maintaining class size as close as possible to the sizes we've had in the past gives students a greater chance to learn as well as feel safe and connected within the school community. At higher levels, more teachers also allows a greater variety of course offerings.

- **Elementary science coordinator to continue the "unified" science program/fifth grade science camp and environment studies (\$45,000)** — Our students learn ecology and natural history through direct observation and investigation supervised by the science coordinator in a curriculum that has students work in small field study groups to solve problems as a team. This cut represents a tremendous loss to Arlington's kids, especially to our fifth grade students who will not have the opportunity to experience science camp.

- **School social workers (\$175,000)** — This line item would restore the services of social workers to the elementary schools. There is a constant need for prevention, assessment, and intervention with students who have crises in their lives. Social workers assist young children dealing with family issues such as illnesses, death and substance abuse. With early intervention, these children can be helped and disruption in the classroom minimized.

- **Part-time grant writer and part-time gifted and talented/differentiated learning training and support person (\$50,000)** — Grant Writer: Arlington Public Schools must continue to seek alternate funding sources to supplement our school's annual operating budget. Federal, state, and private grants require significant data analy-

sis and reporting in order for the schools to receive funding. *Training and support person:* There is a constant need to work with the individual learning needs of our students. This staff person provides teachers with current research and practical skills for teaching students whose learning styles and abilities vary widely within each classroom.

How much to give? Of course, donations of all sizes are appreciated. But if we're to accomplish the goals listed above, we ask that you consider a significant contribution.

For instance, if you voted "yes" on the override, you already committed to spending \$282 on average in additional taxes. If you voted "no" to the override but still want to support our schools, this is your opportunity.

Another option for many parents is to donate the new \$400 child tax credit they may receive from the federal government as early as next month. If you claimed a child tax credit on your 2002 tax return, you may be eligible for up to \$400 for each qualifying child as a result of the 2003 increase in the Child Tax Credit.

Together we can minimize the effects of the budget shortfalls on the children who bear no responsibility for either their causes or their effect. Children depend on their parents and their town for the quality of their education and the quality of their daily lives.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution to Arlington Partners in Education Foundation, P.O. Box 80 Arlington, MA 02476 or online at www.arlingtonschoolsfoundation.org.

Please send your check today because September is coming up very fast. Thank you in advance for your support of Arlington's children.

Arlington Partners in Education Foundation Board of Directors is Judi Bohn, Jane Culbert, Julie Dunn, Donna Eidson, Cindy Friedman, Nora Mann, Leslie Mayer, Stephen Pratt and Rose Udics.

Cuts would devastate AmeriCorps

Recently President George Bush proposed a 58 percent funding cut to the AmeriCorps program.

This drastic cut would dramatically reduce the number of Americans who can serve their country through this superb program. If nothing is done to reverse this proposal, AmeriCorps will be forced to chop enrollment from 1,053 to 242 — a 77 percent cut — here in Massachusetts.

It is very disturbing that at such a time of public need, the president would cut a program that has proven that it can effectively respond to community concerns.

After Sept. 11, there was an overwhelming public desire to help our fellow Americans and contribute to healing our society. AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs, effectively channeled that energy by connecting people willing to serve with communities in need.

In return for one year of service, AmeriCorps members receive a small living allowance and an educational

Guest Columnist

EDWARD J. MARKEY

award of \$4,725 that they can use for higher education upon completion of the program. They have been doing outstanding work in my district and throughout the country.

Acknowledging the tremendous work and service provided by AmeriCorps members, President Bush called for increasing the number of AmeriCorps participants from 50,000 to 75,000 by the year 2004.

The popularity of AmeriCorps is wide and deep. In fact, so great was the demand for this national volunteer service, that the Corporation for National and Community Service overenrolled the program last year.

A \$64 million emergency appropriation was necessary to ensure that 20,000 additional participants received their due educational rewards. However, this pro-

vided only enough money for a single year — it did not provide additional money to enable the program to continue enrolling new participants. Since the fall, the AmeriCorps program has come to a standstill and the president's most recent budget proposal will only exacerbate the situation.

I have joined a number of my colleagues in urging the president to provide an additional appropriation of \$200 million so that AmeriCorps may continue to serve our nation. We cannot let such a successful community service program slip away at a time when hundreds of Americans are looking for ways to give back to their communities.

It is critical that the president fulfill his promise to support public service and provide the funds necessary to allow AmeriCorps to respond to the critical needs of communities throughout Massachusetts and our nation.

Edward J. Markey represents the seventh Massachusetts district in the U.S. House of Representatives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

■ LETTERS, FROM PAGE 8

pitting neighbor against neighbor. I have seen neighbors who were friendly being upset with each other. If this is the recourse then it should not be permitted.

If we can put signs for 2 1/2, then let us be able to put signs once again, for our political candidates. The only signs that were allowed were at schools or voting areas.

Therefore, seeing the editorial in The Arlington Advocate ("Signs symbol of process," July 3) prompted me to send this in.

The only signs permitted were real estate signs and they should be taken down as soon as the house is sold.

Contracting signs, painting signs were not permitted, only until the job was completed.

The town's rules not mine — I feel it should be all for one and one for all.

**Stella Tonry
Park Avenue**

Where is that million dollars?

In early June shortly before the override vote, a million dollars in "found" money was announced by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. Let's look at those numbers and then see what has happened in the following month.

Original amounts as of early June:

- \$ 200,000 reduction in Minuteman assessment
- \$120,000 reduced NESWC fees

\$270,000 assuming Senate school aid would prevail

\$410,000 lower health insurance costs after factoring in the layoffs

This equals \$ 1 million total adjustments as of early June.

This million dollars does not represent money that was actually "lost" in a bank account somewhere or in a

vault in the Town Hall basement. Rather it represents (a) welcome but unexpected reductions in expenses the town pays to outside organizations, (b) an assumption about state aid and (c) a savings taken at the expense of the laid off town employees.

As of early July, the "found" money stood at half of what it was in June: \$1 million total adjustments as of early June.

\$270,000 Senate school aid did not prevail

\$273,000 Additional Assistance funds were vetoed by Gov. Romney

Now, it is \$457,000 in total adjustments as of early July.

Not only did the state school aid not come through, but there was a further reduction in the previously expected state assistance.

What this shows is the basic uncertainty of any budgeting process because of outside factors. Thus the fact that

■ SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 9

a million dollars was "found" in June and only half as much still remains in July, does not mean that the town is financially mismanaged or the people involved not competent.

Rather it shows that in spite of conscientious efforts to present the best information available at the time, things do change. Keep in mind too that these amounts are small compared to the total town budget of \$110 million.

The big picture still

remains that the town is \$4 to \$5 million short of what is needed to maintain the same level of services as last year.

David White
Bow Street

Concerned about budget cuts

As a lifelong Arlington resident and 2000 graduate of the Arlington Public School system, I can attest to the powerful and positive impact that our human services pro-

grams have on the lives of young people.

I am especially grateful for the dedication and support of my teachers, who ingrained in me a commitment to service and a confidence in my abilities as a member of this community. The thought of their jobs, or the programs they implement, being threatened deeply saddens me.

This week I watched in grief and concern as Gov. Mitt Romney removed crucial funds from education and human service programs across Massachusetts. I was one of approximately 200 protesters — several of whom were from out-of-state — gathered in the State House on June 30 to voice our concern. Rarely have I been so moved or inspired as I was on that afternoon.

My hope is to give a voice of encouragement to other young residents of Arlington who, like me, know the value of our schools and the importance of speaking out about issues such as these. I have faith that you will make your voice known to your representatives and show your appreciation to the outstanding teachers who have made us who we are.

Betty-Jeanne Rueters-Ward
Coolidge Road

Clear roadway of recycle bins

On Wednesday, July 2, I had an unfortunate auto accident which should not have happened.

To explain, about 5:15 p.m., I drove down Maple Street toward Pleasant Street. Midway, a car was approaching from the opposite direction, with cars parked alongside that opposite side. To avoid a sideswipe, I drove as near to the right as possible. As my car and the approaching car passed one another, I heard a metal snap sound along my right front door area.

What happened? Two recycle bins had been placed right

House bill would help schools

Telephone is an old party game, where a message is whispered down a long line of folks. The distortion of the message makes the game fun and people look forward to laughing when the final message has no resemblance to the original.

The letter from Travis James Ignatius Corcoran, regarding my support for House 1215 ("Speaks against House bill," June 26), is the tail end of a chain of messages that similarly moved through two e-mail lists and the specious interpretation of a vocal anti-tax, anti-government Libertarian before arriving in the letters column of the Advocate.

As with anything heavily processed that emerges at the tail end of the beast, the end product doesn't resemble the wholesome and nutritious ingredients that appeared at the start.

I only wish I had the time machine that would be necessary to introduce legislation, schedule a hearing, and testify before the appropriate legislative committee in the conspiratorial manner implied in Mr. Corcoran's letter.

House 1215 was introduced last December and I testified on behalf of this legislation before the joint legislative committee on taxation on June 10, four days before our override vote. Some of the subsequent discussion on the Massachusetts Association of School Committees e-mail list found its way to the Arlington e-mail list, and finally Mr. Corcoran responded to the Arlington e-mail list and The Advocate with claims this legislation was an end-run around Arlington's June 14 override vote.

Given that legislation flows through the Massachusetts Legislature with the liquidity of chilled molasses, even the most casual reader understands the absurdity of Mr. Corcoran's conspiracy theory. However, no reader can understand the impact of this legislation, or my reason for supporting it, based on Mr. Corcoran's recent missive. Here, in my own unfiltered prose, is my reason for supporting House 1215.

As president-elect of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, I am committed to advancing the organization's agenda of sufficient, equitable, and reliable funding for public schools in the cities and towns of the commonwealth. In Massachusetts, this funding is an obligation written into our state constitution; it is not a discretionary expenditure.

In 1993, the state Supreme Judicial Court, deciding Jami McDuffy et al. v. Secretary of the Executive Office of Education et al., determined the state's system of funding public schools failed to meet the constitutional duty to provide sufficient and equitable funding for schools, and mandated the funding and mechanisms necessary for all cities and towns to provide good schools for the children of Massachusetts. (For a link to the text of the McDuffy decision, visit my Web site, www.schlichtman.org.)

The Education Reform Act of 1993 attempted to remedy the issues addressed in the McDuffy decision. The state created a foundation budget for each school system in the state, calculated the amount municipalities could afford to contribute to support the schools, and provided necessary state aid to bring the local contribution up to the foundation budget. Municipalities spending above foundation were required to maintain effort, so the foundation budget would not become an

excuse to drop school expenditures to the minimum.

The required municipal appropriation is called the "Minimum Required Local Contribution." In effect, the state has set a minimum property tax for schools and the Romney budget released in February was calculated using an implicit minimum property tax rate of \$6 per \$1,000 adjusted assessed valuation for the purpose of deriving the Minimum Required Local Contribution.

Arlington's property taxes for schools are substantially below the implicit tax rate, which is why Arlington would have lost 40 percent of our school aid if the Romney allocations prevailed through the budget process.

The governor and Legislature are committed to budgetary policies that require higher levels of local property tax support for schools prior to the allocation of additional state aid. The prevailing House budget cut state aid to public schools in most municipalities by 20 percent.

Municipalities are prohibited from raising sufficient revenue to meet the implicit tax rate or replace the lost state aid under the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2. I believe the state can mandate increased local taxation, or limit increased local taxation, but the state constitution prohibits doing both simultaneously.

I firmly believe the commonwealth should be providing a much higher percentage of school funding through progressive statewide taxes. I also believe that state-mandated taxation of real property in the cities and towns should be exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2 and that is the problem House 1215 attempts to solve.

The provisions of House 1215 are simple. If the state creates added mandates for local property taxation for schools, then that mandated increase in local taxation is exempt from Proposition 2 1/2.

On June 11, the courts began to hear testimony in Hancock v. Driscoll, the successor case to McDuffy. Plaintiffs in Hancock contend the state has failed to live up to the constitutional obligations for funding schools articulated in the McDuffy ruling. I agree with the plaintiffs.

House 1215 would be one mechanism to remedy the failures of the commonwealth to devise a mechanism for funding schools without the intervention of the courts.

I believe House 1215 is a moderate response to potentially-revolutionary court orders possible under the Hancock case.

It is better to adjust local taxing authority to provide for increases in minimum contributions today, than to do nothing and wait for the courts to unilaterally impose taxes, or declare the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2 unconstitutional because it conflicts with the commonwealth's constitutional duty to fund public schools.

House 1215 is far from ideal, but I believe it meets the immediate need to address the devastating 20 percent withdrawal of state aid for our schools in the context of the constitutional mandate to adequately and equitably fund public schools. Now that you know the facts, I would hope you would join me in asking our legislators to support House 1215.

Paul Schlichtman is president-elect of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and member of the Arlington School Committee.

Guest Columnist

PAUL SCHLICHTMAN

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